

Remarks

Applicant has received and carefully reviewed the Final Office Action mailed February 24, 2010, and the Advisory Action Mailed May 7, 2010. Only allowed claim 9 remains pending. All rejected claims, namely claims 1-8 and 10-20, have been canceled without prejudice. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 9 is allowable, but requested that Applicant make two minor changes to claim 9. Applicant made the requested changes in the First Amendment After Final dated April 23, 2010, along with some other changes to the last paragraph of claim 9. In the Advisory Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 9 was in condition for allowance.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 2, 7, and 12-16 were objected to because of lack of proper antecedent basis. Claims 1, 2, 7, and 12-16 have been canceled without prejudice, rendering the objection moot.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-8 and 10-15 were rejected on the ground of non-statutory double patenting over certain claims of U.S. Patent No. 7,586,213. Claims 1-8 and 10-15 have been canceled without prejudice, rendering the rejection moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

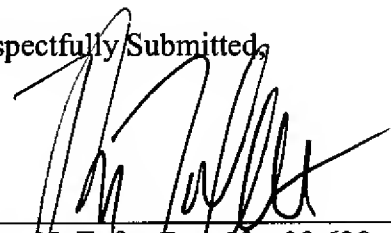
Claims 1-8 and 10-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Auer et al. (U.S. 4,118,750). Applicant respectfully disagrees. However, because we are after final, and to obtain a patent in a timely manner, claims 1-8 and 10-20 have been canceled without prejudice, rendering the rejection moot.

Conclusion

Only allowed claim 9 remains pending. All rejected claims, namely claims 1-8 and 10-20, have been canceled without prejudice. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. If a telephone interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at 612-359-9348.

Respectfully Submitted,

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